

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice. By the present preliminary amendment the claims have been amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Subject matter of the cancelled multiple dependencies is also now presented in new Claims 11-22. The abstract has also been amended to be in more proper format under United States practice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No: _____
Amendment Filed on: _____IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--3. (Amended) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 1[or 2], wherein the second group of heating elements are suspended from a ceiling inner wall of the heating furnace at a position opposed to the upper surface of the glass sheet.

4. (Amended) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 1, [2 or 3,] wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable.

5. (Amended) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 1, [2, 3 or 4,] wherein each heating element of the second group of heating elements has a heater wire and an equally heating plate provided at the heating face side of the heater wire.

8. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6[or 7], wherein the second group of heating elements are suspended from a ceiling inner wall of the heating furnace and disposed at a position opposed to the upper surface of the glass sheet to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

9. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6, [7 or 8,] wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

10. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6, [7, 8 or 9,] wherein the bending mold having the glass sheet placed thereon is intermittently conveyed so as to stop at each section in the heating furnace.--

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09/831913

531 Rec'd PCT/US 25 MAY 2001

Claims 11-22 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACTABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A desired temperature distribution is efficiently formed on a glass sheet by a simple structure without lowering heat efficiency within a furnace. A heating furnace [15] conveys a bending mold [9] of a glass sheet and a radiation-heating device is provided in the heating furnace[, and a] .A first group of a plurality of heating elements are fixed on an inner wall surface of the heating furnace [15[, and a] .A second group of a plurality of heating elements are disposed separably from an inner wall surface of the heating furnace.